

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /081 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8602

INFO AMCONSUL TORONTO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, CA

SUBJ: UAW INSISTS ON WAGE PARITY DESPITE CANADIAN
CONTROLS

1. WAGE CONTROL PROVISIONS OF ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM
WERE INJECTED INTO BILATERAL US-CANADIAN INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS CONTEXT WHEN UAW PRESIDENT WOODCOCK TOLD
1,000 DELEGATES AT DETROIT CONFERENCE THAT INTERNATIONAL
UNION WOULD GIVE FULL BACKING TO CANADIAN SECTION TO
PRESERVE WAGE PARITY IN NEXT SEPTEMBER BARGAINING ROUND
IN AUTO INDUSTRY. WOODCOCK WAS QUOTED BY GLOBE AND
MAIL LABOR
REPORTER LIST AS SAYING "UAW WILL NOT ALLOW
CONTROLS PROGRAM IN CANADA TO VIOLATE WAGE PARITY
WE SO PAINFULLY WON IN COLLECTIVE BARGAINING." HE
UNDERSCORED THAT ANY RUPTURE OF WAGE ALIGNMENT WOULD
JEOPARDIZE UAW SUPPORT FOR AUTO TRADE AGREEMENT SINCE
"WE HAVE BEEN INSISTENT THAT AS PART OF OUR
PARTICIPATION IN AUTO PACT THERE BE SAME WAGES
FOR SAME WORK."

2. IN HASTY OVER-REACTION, LABOR MINISTER MUNRO
TERMED WOODCOCK'S REMARKS AS TANTAMOUNT TO
INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL CANADIAN AFFAIRS AND REJECTED
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HAVING CANADA TREATED LIKE "BANANA REPUBLIC."

3. COMMENT: JUDGING BY EARLIER CONVERSATIONS LABATT HAS HAD WITH CANADIAN UAW LEADERS THEY ARE FIRMLY COMMITTED TO WAGE PARITY AND THE IDENTICAL COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT FIRST ACHIEVED UNDER CURRENT CONTRACT. IT IS OBVIOUSLY TOO EARLY TO JUDGE WHETHER COMPENSATION DEMANDS IN SUMMER ROUND OF PARALLEL US-CANADIAN BARGAINING WILL EXCEED WAGE GUIDELINES UNDER ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM. IF PRIORITIES ON IMPROVED HEALTH AND SAFETY PROVISIONS AND SHORTER WORK WEEK ARE MAINTAINED AVOIDANCE OF CONFRONTATION WITH ANTI-INFLATION BOARD MAY BE REAL POSSIBILITY. JOHNSON

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